(b) and (c) The following festivals were sanctioned during the last three years for the State of Andhra Pradesh:

Year	Name of the Festival	Amount sanctioned (Rs. in lacs)
1999-2000	1. Millennium Festival	3.50
	2. Deccan Festival	1.60
	3. International Kite Festival	1.62
	4. Girijan Festival	1.37
2000-2001	1. Lumbini Festival	3.20
2001-2002	No proposal for fairs and festival was prioritised for central financial assistance	

Development of tourism

†3219. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to take any specific steps for making tourism more attractive;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps in this matter so far; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) The Department of Tourism has the following short term and long term plans to make Tourism more attractive:—

(1) Positioning and maintaining tourism development as a National priority activity,

(2) Enhancing and maintaining the competitiveness of India as a tourism destination,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(3) Improving India's existing tourism products and expanding these to meet new market requirements,

(4) Creation of world class infrastructure,

(5) Developing sustained and effective market plans and programmes,

(6) Special thrust to rural and small segment tourism; and

(7) Attention to civilizational issues and issues pertaining to civic administration, good governance and also of social and cultural values.

(b) A series of measures have already been taken. Initiating measures for making tourism attractive is a continuous process.

(c) The new schemes which have *inter-alia* been included in the Annual Plan 2002-2003 for development of infrastructure and promotion of Tourism in the country are:—

(1) Integrated development of tourist circuits,
(2) Product/Infrastructure and Destination Development,
(3) Assistance for large Revenue generating projects and
(4) Capacity Building for Service providers.

Additional hotel loans

3220. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the interest subsidy on additional hotel loan which was given to the hotels, etc. by the Department of Tourism since the interest subsidy scheme was introduced;

(b) whether the same is being done without issuing the Gazette of India notification;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the number of claims of interest subsidy on additional loan are